

# Get cash to 'Make a Splash'



City of Tacoma Environmental Services awards up to \$50,000 a year in grants (up to \$4,000 each) for projects aimed at preventing pollution and protecting or restoring Tacoma's surface water resources. Applicants may be individuals or groups and projects may be educational.

Grant applications must address stormwater pollution or protection and restoration of our local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound.

*This grant is not meant for projects focusing on water conservation or clean drinking water.*

[www.cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash)  
(253) 502-2126

**Application deadline:  
May 16, 2011**



[www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices)

City of Tacoma • Recycled and Recyclable • MarApr - CR 047 (02/11) bw

## TAGRO: the natural choice

Using chemicals in your yard can pose risks to children, pets, and even the health of your local rivers, lakes, streams and Puget Sound.

Use all-natural TAGRO Premium Soil Products or compost instead of chemical fertilizers to get great results and help keep our waterways clean.

### **TAGRO's spring hours begin mid-March:**

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays

Available for pickup or delivery

### **Free home and garden workshops:**

For more details and registration, please visit [www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices) or call (253) 573-2426.



**TAGRO**  
City of Tacoma

[www.tagro.com](http://www.tagro.com)  
(253) 502-2150

# 2011 solid waste, surface water & wastewater rates



Solid waste, surface water and wastewater utility rates have increased for 2011. Here's how typical single-family Tacoma residents will be affected by the higher cost of delivering services:

## Curbside garbage

(per month)

	2010	2011
20-gallon can	\$25.25	\$25.25
30-gallon can	\$35.35	\$35.95
60-gallon can	\$57.00	\$62.75
90-gallon can	\$79.35	\$90.00

### What you're paying for:

Collection of garbage, recycling and yard waste; landfill transfer facility; transportation and disposal of waste material at a landfill; environmental stewardship; and special programs such as Call-2-Haul, low-income elderly discounts, the nuisance cleanup program, self-haul discounts and household hazardous waste disposal.

## Surface Water

(per month)

	2010	2011
Typical residential lot (7,000 square feet)	\$16.27	\$17.00

### What you're paying for:

Operation and maintenance of 500 miles of stormwater pipes, 22,000+ storm drains/catch basins, four pump stations and numerous detention ponds which manage the flow of rainwater runoff. Also, preventing pollution from reaching Puget Sound through inspections, monitoring, education and other efforts; controlling urban flooding; and restoring sites affected by industry and urbanization.

## Wastewater

(per month)

	2010	2011
Typical residence (7 ccf of fresh water used)	\$39.56	\$41.05

### What you're paying for:

Operation and maintenance of the 700-mile network of underground pipes, 48 pumping stations and two major wastewater treatment facilities. The pipes and pumping stations convey wastewater from homes and businesses to the treatment plants, where raw wastewater is treated to a level acceptable for discharge to Commencement Bay. Costs for treatment include the production of TAGRO products.

## Why are rates going up?

Utility reserves are being used to offset some cost increases. However, maintenance costs, environmental regulations and upgrades to Tacoma's infrastructure are some of the factors causing rates to increase.

## How can I cut my costs?

- Reduce waste and recycle everything you can. If you consistently produce less garbage, you can use a smaller container and pay less.
- Use less water during the winter. Residential wastewater charges are based on the average of four months' winter water use.

## Need help paying your bill?

The City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Utilities offer discounts to utility customers who qualify based on income. A 30 percent discount is available to low-income adults receiving disability income or those age 62 and older. This discount was increased in 2011, up from 25 percent previously. Payment assistance is also available for other customers; requirements have been changed so customers don't have to be in disconnect status to apply for assistance. For an application, please call (253) 502-8369 or visit [www.mytpu.org](http://www.mytpu.org).

[www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates)

Wastewater/Surface Water: (253) 502-2100

Solid Waste: (253) 591-5543